

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An assembly for housing shotgun shells having a generally cylindrical shape with a first and a second end, the assembly comprising:

a container having a floor having two side lateral edges and a front and a rear lateral edge, two side walls mounted at the side lateral edges of the floor and a rear wall attached to the rear lateral edge of the floor so as to extend between the two side walls wherein the floor, the two side walls and the rear wall define a first recess and wherein the container has a first opening formed adjacent the front lateral edge of the floor between the two side walls, and a second opening formed adjacent the first opening and opposite from the floor, wherein the first and second openings are ~~that is~~ sized so as to permit shotgun shells to be positioned in the first recess via the first or second opening and wherein the container is dimensioned so that the shotgun shells are arranged in a first orientation within the container so that the axes of the cylindrical shotgun shells extend in a direction substantially parallel to the direction of the two side walls; and

a cover comprising a front panel, a rear panel, and two side panels attached to four edges of a base panel such that the two side panels and the front and rear panels define an opening adjacent a plane located opposite from the base panel ~~that defines~~ such that the cover defines a partially enclosed space that is sized to receive the container wherein at least one dimension of the opening is larger than the corresponding dimension of the partially enclosed space adjacent the base panel ~~such that~~ wherein when the container is positioned within the partially enclosed space of the cover, the cover encloses the first and second openings in the container so as to prevent the shotgun shells positioned within the first recess from dislodging from the first recess; and

wherein the cover and the container latch by frictional engagement when the container is near the fully inserted configuration wherein such frictional latching and the insertion of the container into the partially enclosed space of the cover are facilitated by the at least one dimension of the opening of the cover being larger than the corresponding dimension of the partially enclosed space adjacent the base panel and wherein the

frictionally latched cover and container collectively define a housing that retains the shotgun shells in the first orientation until a user wishes to remove the shotgun shells.

2. (Canceled).
3. (Currently amended) The assembly of Claim 2 1, wherein each of the two side panels defines a cutout adjacent the opening to facilitate grasping of the container positioned therein.
4. (Original) The assembly of Claim 3, wherein the cutout is semicircular in shape.
5. (Original) The assembly of Claim 4, wherein the semicircular cutout has a radius of approximately 5/8".
6. (Canceled).
7. (Currently amended) The assembly of Claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein each of the front, rear, and two side panels is oriented with respect to the base panel so as to form an angle of approximately 0.5 degree with respect to the normal of the base panel such that the opening is larger than the base panel.

Claims 8 – 12 (Canceled).

Claims 13 – 15 (Canceled).

16. (Original) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the exterior side of the floor of the container defines an area with a surface adapted to receive labels for identification purposes.

17. (Original) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the container and the cover are formed from plastic with thickness of approximately 0.06".

18. (Original) The assembly of Claim 17, wherein the container and the cover are dimensioned to hold 25 12-gauge 2-3/4" shotgun shells in a 5x5 configuration.

19. (Currently amended) An assembly for housing shotgun shells having a generally cylindrical shape with a first and a second end, the assembly comprising:

a container having a floor having two side lateral edges and a front and a rear lateral edge, two side walls mounted at the side lateral edges of the floor and a rear wall attached to the rear lateral edge of the floor so as to extend between the two side walls

wherein the floor, the two side walls and the rear wall define a first recess and wherein the container has a first opening formed adjacent the front lateral edge of the floor between the two side walls, and a second opening formed adjacent the first opening and opposite from the floor, wherein the first and second openings are ~~that is~~ sized so as to permit shotgun shells to be positioned in the first recess via the first or second opening wherein the container is dimensioned so that the shotgun shells are arranged in a first orientation within the container so that the axes of the cylindrical shotgun shells extend in a direction substantially parallel to the direction of the two side walls;

a cover comprising a front panel, a rear panel, and two side panels attached to four edges of a base panel such that the two side panels and the front and rear panels define an opening adjacent a plane located opposite from the base panel ~~that defines~~ such that the cover defines a partially enclosed space that is sized to receive the container wherein at least one dimension of the opening is larger than the corresponding dimension of the partially enclosed space adjacent the base panel ~~such that~~ wherein when the container is positioned within the partially enclosed space of the cover, the cover encloses the first and second openings in the container so as to prevent the shotgun shells positioned within the first recess from dislodging from the first recess, wherein the cover and the container latch by frictional engagement when the container is near the fully inserted configuration wherein such frictional latching and the insertion of the container into the partially enclosed space of the cover are facilitated by the at least one dimension of the opening of the cover being larger than the corresponding dimension of the partially enclosed space adjacent the base panel and wherein the frictionally latched cover and container collectively define a housing that retains the shotgun shells in the first orientation until a user wishes to remove the shotgun shells; and

a stand adapted to detachably hold the container at a first container orientation to facilitate positioning of the shotgun shells in the first orientation in the first recess of the container.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently amended) The assembly of Claim ~~20~~ 19, wherein each of the two side panels defines a cutout adjacent the opening to facilitate grasping of the container positioned therein.

22. (Original) The assembly of Claim 21, wherein the cutout is semicircular in shape.

23. (Original) The assembly of Claim 22, wherein the semicircular cutout has a radius of approximately 5/8".

24. (Canceled).

25. (Currently amended) The assembly of Claim ~~24~~ 19, wherein each of the front, rear, and two side panels is oriented with respect to the base panel so as to form an angle of approximately 0.5 degree with respect to the normal of the base panel such that the opening is larger than the base panel.

Claims 26 – 30 (Canceled).

Claims 31 – 33 (Canceled).

34. (Original) The assembly of Claim 19, wherein the exterior side of the floor of the container defines an area with a surface adapted to receive labels for identification purposes.

35. (Original) The assembly of Claim 19, wherein the container and the cover are formed from plastic with thickness of approximately 0.06".

36. (Original) The assembly of Claim 35, wherein the container and the cover are dimensioned to hold 25 12-gauge 2-3/4" shotgun shells in a 5x5 configuration.

37. (Original) The assembly of Claim 19, wherein the stand comprises a platform supported by a first and a second leg, and a rear and a side retaining wall to permit the container to be removably mounted.

38. (Original) The assembly of Claim 37, wherein the first leg is longer than the second leg so as to orient the platform at a selected angle, wherein the container mounted thereon is biased towards the side retaining wall by gravity, wherein the angled orientation of the container facilitates stacking of shells in the first recess.

39. (Original) The assembly of Claim 38, wherein the selected angle is approximately 25 degrees with respect to a supporting surface.

Claims 40 – 42 (Canceled).

43. (New) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the height of the two side walls is selected to be less than the height of the rear wall.

44. (New) The assembly of Claim 43, wherein the rear wall defines non-sharp corners at ends of an edge opposite from the rear lateral edge of the floor, wherein the non-sharp corners facilitate the insertion of the rear wall into the partially enclosed space of the cover.

45. (New) The assembly of Claim 44, wherein the non-sharp corners comprise two rounded corners.

46. (New) The assembly of Claim 45, wherein each of the two rounded corners has a radius of curvature of approximately 0.375".

47. (New) The assembly of Claim 44, wherein the height of the two side walls is selected such that the top of the two side walls is adjacent a height where the non-sharp corners of the rear wall end so as to facilitate the insertion of the container into the cover while being tall enough to retain the top layer of shotgun shells positioned within the first recess.

48. (New) The assembly of Claim 47, wherein the height of the two side walls is approximately 3 ¾".

49. (New) The assembly of Claim 1, wherein the second opening of the container allows the retained shotgun shells to be transferred from the container to the cover by disengaging the container from the cover, wherein the shotgun shells substantially remain in the first orientation during the transfer.

50. (New) The assembly of Claim 49, wherein the transfer of the shotgun shells from the container to the cover is achieved by positioning the floor of the container upward relative to the second opening and pulling the container generally upward and removing the container from the partially enclosed space of the cover thereby allowing the shotgun shells to remain in the partially enclosed space of the cover.

51. (New) The assembly of Claim 19, wherein the height of the two side walls is selected to be less than the height of the rear wall.

52. (New) The assembly of Claim 49, wherein the rear wall defines non-sharp corners at ends of an edge opposite from the rear lateral edge of the floor, wherein the non-sharp corners facilitate the insertion of the rear wall into the partially enclosed space of the cover.

53. (New) The assembly of Claim 50, wherein the non-sharp corners comprise two rounded corners.

54. (New) The assembly of Claim 51, wherein each of the two rounded corners has a radius of curvature of approximately 0.375".

55. (New) The assembly of Claim 50, wherein the height of the two side walls is selected such that the top of the two side walls is adjacent a height where the non-sharp corners of the rear wall end so as to facilitate the insertion of the container into the cover while being tall enough to retain the top layer of shotgun shells positioned within the first recess.

56. (New) The assembly of Claim 53, wherein the height of the two side walls is approximately 3 ¾".

57. (New) The assembly of Claim 19, wherein the second opening of the container allows the retained shotgun shells to be transferred from the container to the cover by disengaging the container from the cover, wherein the shotgun shells substantially remain in the first orientation during the transfer.

58. (New) The assembly of Claim 57, wherein the transfer of the shotgun shells from the container to the cover is achieved by positioning the floor of the container upward relative to the second opening and pulling the container generally upward and removing the container from the partially enclosed space of the cover thereby allowing the shotgun shells to remain in the partially enclosed space of the cover.

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SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Identification of Claims Discussed

Claim 1 was discussed in the interview.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

Deppa (U.S. Patent No. 1,571,235), Sauey (U.S. Patent No. 2,928,530), and Blunt (U.S. Patent No. 3,479,796) references were discussed in the interview.

Proposed Amendments

Claim 1 would be amended to define a second opening in the container portion and further definition of a latching mechanism and secure attachment of the cover to the container. Independent Claim 19 would also be amended in a similar manner.

Results of Interview

Agreement was reached where the proposed amendment of Claim 1 appears to make Claim 1 patentable over the art of record, subject to further search.